

GRACE LIFE CHURCH OF DALLAS

Statement of Faith: Marriage and Human Sexuality and Sanctity of Human Life

Preamble

We believe that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is the only sufficient and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, and is our infallible guide (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Since the Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand, articulate and obey what the Bible teaches on these matters.

We are committed to the home and family as set forth in the Scriptures. We believe God has ordained and created marriage to exist between one man and one woman, with absolute marital fidelity, and has clearly communicated that truth in His Word. The Bible sets forth specific home and family values, which include the distinct roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. It is our firm conviction that we uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

Beliefs Concerning: Marriage, Sexuality and the Sanctify of Life

Based on the unchanging and infallible Word of God, we believe:

- **Marriage** — Grace Life Church of Dallas defines marriage as the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Mark 10:5-9, Ephesians 5:31-33) Further, the pastors of Grace Life Church of Dallas shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman.

- **Sexual Immorality** — Grace Life Church of Dallas believes that sexual acts outside marriage are prohibited as sinful. Consequently, Grace Life Church of Dallas members must resist and refrain from any and all sexual acts outside marriage — including but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, zoophilia, pornography, prostitution, masturbation, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, sodomy, polygamy, polyamory, sologamy, or same-sex sexual acts. (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, Leviticus 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 15:19, Matthew 5:27-28, Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5)

- **Sexual Identity** — Grace Life Church of Dallas believes that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, Grace Life Church of Dallas members must affirm their biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex — including but not limited to elective sex-reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non-binary “genderqueer” acts or conduct. (Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

- **Sexual Orientation** — Grace Life Church of Dallas believes that God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” union of man and woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. Consequently, Grace Life Church of Dallas members must affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)

- **Sexual Redemption** — Grace Life Church of Dallas believes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek redemption through confession, repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently, Grace Life Church of Dallas members must welcome and treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who experience same-sex attractions or confess sexually immoral acts but are committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and conforming their behavior to Grace Life Church of Dallas’ Statement of Faith and Distinctives. (Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10, I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16).

- **Church Discipline** — If an individual persistently refuses to listen to personal and informal correction to turn from speech or behavior that the Bible defines as sin, Jesus commands us to “tell it to the church” (Matt. 18:17a). This first involves informing one or more elders about the situation. If the offense is not likely to cause imminent harm to others, our leaders may approach the individual privately to personally establish the facts and encourage repentance of any sin they discover. The individual will be given every reasonable opportunity to explain and defend his or her actions. If the individual recognizes his sin and repents, the matter usually ends there, unless a confession to additional people is needed.

If an offense is likely to harm others or lead them into sin, or cause division or disruption, our leaders may accelerate the entire disciplinary process and move promptly to protect the church (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Titus 3:10-11).

As the disciplinary process progresses, our leaders may impose a variety of sanctions to encourage repentance, including but not limited to private and public admonition, withholding of the Lord's Supper, removal from office, withdrawal of normal fellowship, and, as a last resort, removal from membership (Matt. 5:23-24; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; Matt. 18:17).

See Grace Life Church of Dallas' Commitment to Accountability and Church Discipline.

- **Celibacy** — Grace Life Church of Dallas believes that Scriptures grant two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal “one flesh” marital union of one man and one woman, and (2) celibacy. Either is a gift from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them. Celibacy and faithful singleness is to be celebrated and affirmed within the Grace Life Church of Dallas. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-8; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-8; Matthew 19:12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 12:10; 1 Timothy 5:1-2)

- **Sanctity of Human Life** – Grace Life Church of Dallas believes that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

Holy Scripture:

Marriage and Human Sexuality

Genesis 1:26-28
Genesis 2:18-24
Genesis 19:5-10
Exodus 20:14
Leviticus 18:7-23
Leviticus 20:10-21
Deuteronomy 5:18
Judges 19:22-24
Matthew 5:27-28
Matthew 15:19
Matthew 19:4-9
Mark 10:5-9
Romans 1:26-27
1 Corinthians 6:9-13
1 Corinthians 5:21
Galatians 5:19
Ephesians 4:17-19
Ephesians 5:25-27
Ephesians 5:31
Colossians 3:5
1 Thessalonians 4:3
Hebrews 13:4
1 Timothy 1:8-10
Jude 1:7
Revelation 19:7-9
Revelation 21:2

Pastoral Care

Matthew 11:28-30
Romans 3:23
Ephesians 2:1-10
1 Corinthians 10:13
Hebrews 2:17-18
Hebrews 4:14-16

Application

All of our members, employees, and volunteers must affirm and adhere to this Doctrinal and Religious Absolute statement on marriage and human sexuality and sanctity of human life to qualify for involvement with the ministry. This is necessary to accomplish our religious mission, goals and purpose. Behavior or counter-witnessing that does otherwise will impede and burden our integrity and religious mission. We believe that God's grace can wipe the slate of guilt and sin, though the consequences are still incurred.

Authority

The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, acting as the source of authority over morality, our beliefs, Christian lifestyle and conduct. The elders of Grace Life Church of Dallas are charged with the ministerial responsibility of Biblical interpretation and promulgating religious policy. The elders will determine life application as well as final matters relating to church theology, philosophy, Christian practice, faith, divine truth, morality, and theological and doctrinal resolutions.

First adopted by the Elders of Grace Life Church of Dallas on February 3, 2016